The Secret Search for Peace in Vietnam - David Kraslow and Stuart Loory (NY: Random House, 1968)

P. 91 -- In 1964 ... as a former White House aide later described the mood of that period: "The very word negotiations was anathema in the admin.

P. 96 "In November, 1963 in the aftermath of the Diem downfall, Ho [Thant] suggested to the U.S. the establishment of a coalition govern. in Saigon which would take in all the anti-Diem nationalists, including those who had been exiled. The plan floundered because the U.S. was not interested in such a coalition and because the exiles would not return. But Thant apparently lost no standing in making the suggestion."

The plan floundered because Pres. Kennedy was assassinated not because of an alledged lack of interest in a coalition gov. in Saigon. What the hell had the big argument been, between Diem & Kennedy, if not Diem's refusal to take into the Government opposing parties so as to give it some semblance of popular control and some claim of legitimacy before the world people. Kennedy repeated till he was blue in the face that some sort of popular representitive gov. had to evolve in Saigon if it was to gain the support of the Country's people in the fight against communism.

I think Kennedy suspected as early as 1961 that no government in Saigon could elicit that much support from the countryside to defeat the guerrillas. But a gov. of many factions, bilerals, conservitives as well as a few on the left and very few real communist would not be found